

Johnson County Public Policy Council
2018 U.S. Congressional 3rd District Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Chris Clemmons

Political Party Affiliation: Libertarian

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Occupation/Work History (last 5 years – 25 words or less):

Science/Garden Science Teacher @ Rosedale Middle School, KCKPS

If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list what organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held:

N/A

Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

State Director, Our America Initiative 2014-2016, 2017-Present

OWLS Wildlife Garden Grant Winner 2015

U.S. Congressional Candidate, KS 2nd District 2014

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (10 words or less per issue)

1. Restoring the Bill of Rights/Constitutional Checks and Balances 2. Balancing the Budget: 5% cut per year over 13 years. 3. Ending Tax Loopholes: Abolish income tax, institute FAIR Tax

What are your views on the federal tax policy changes approved last December, known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act? (100 words or less)

I'm for low taxes, however tax cuts should come with spending cuts. The write-offs and additional loopholes worked into our new tax law could all be done away with by switching to the FAIR Tax. I propose that we do away with the income tax and the IRS, and replace them with a simple, transparent sales tax. All goods and services would be taxed, minus life's necessities, plus you keep 100% of your paycheck, reducing demand on safety net programs. Furthermore, the tax code would fit on a single sheet of paper. Its simple, fair, and constitutional. No More Loopholes.

What are your views on long-term funding solutions for transportation infrastructure? (75 words or less)

Both our national and economic security rely on our infrastructure to be properly funded by congress. That said, we need to be running a lean federal budget. Part of that means prioritizing our expenditures by cutting unnecessary bloat, in order to free up our budget for increased funding where it is most necessary. That means setting infrastructure at the top of the list.

What are your views on international trade and tariffs? (75 words or less)

Free trade lowers the cost and raises the standard of living for everyone involved. We should be focused on lowering trade barriers with our allies and work towards forging true free trade agreements, not corporate cronyism disguised as free trade, like the TPP.

What role should the federal government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? (50 words or less)

Besides health and safety regulations, which ensure employers don't endanger their workers, employers and employees should be free to seek mutually beneficial employment arrangements without the interference of the federal government.

What are your views on national environmental policy? (50 words or less)

As a science teacher, my main focus is teaching my students about ecology and environmental sustainability, and I believe that environmental standards are vital to protecting our future. However, these standards and regulations need to be passed by the legislature, not a bureaucratic agency full of unelected officials.

What do you see as the federal government's role in workforce development? (50 words or less)

The economy is an immensely complicated system. Generally, top down, centralized control tends to produce less than superior results, in regards to complex systems. As such, the federal government needs to cede as much control as possible, to allow the market and employment to flourish.

What are your views on national immigration policy? Do you support employment-based immigration reforms to assist with workforce shortages in specified industries? (50 words or less)

I am for enforcing the rule of law along our border, however I also support lubricating the process for workers in certain high need industries. If its easier to legally immigrate to the U.S., fewer people will want to go the illegal route. Immigration should be easy, transparent, and affordable.

What are your views on the Affordable Care Act? (50 words or less)

There are many ways of making health care affordable for all Americans that don't involve forcing Americans to buy insurance. Cutting the length of medical patents, ending DEA obstructionism in scientific research, ending FDA obstructionism in preventing generics and new treatments from coming to market, are just a few solutions.

What do you believe is the appropriate balance between data privacy and national security? (50 words or less)

Current federal policy is a gross violation of the 4th amendment, and is wholly illegal. The federal government needs to follow the 4th amendment, and obtain a real warrant, from a real judge. FISA is a rubber stamp. I believe "Project ThinThread" was the appropriate balance and more effective program.

What project have you been most proud to work on? (50 words or less)

I am incredibly proud of the work I have done at my middle school in obtaining grants to build a wildlife garden and micro-orchard. It has provided opportunities for my students to investigate

nature and practice real science, while teaching them to become stewards of their environment and community.

What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s)? (50 words or less)

Working in the inner city as a science educator gives me a unique set of tools for forging relationships and pushing for policy changes. When class sizes balloon to 30-40, my ability to breakdown complicated concepts and build working relationships with my incredibly diverse group of students, keeps me alive.